

Town of Erie Economic Development

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Town of Erie Economic Development Plan Update – November 10, 2009

Erie Municipal Airport Designated Aviation Development Zone

Aircraft Manufacturers May Now Qualify for \$1,200 State Income Tax Credit

ERIE, CO – During the November 10, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting, Town Administrator Mike N. Acimovic announced to the Board that Erie Municipal Airport is now designated as an Aviation Development Zone with the [Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade](#) (OEDIT). Aircraft manufacturers located in a Colorado aviation development zone may qualify for a state income tax credit of \$1,200 per new employee.

An aviation manufacturer is defined as a business involved in the production of aircraft parts specifically used in the manufacture of aircraft or a business involved in the development of a proof of concept or prototype aircraft, a test and evaluation aircraft, a certification aircraft, or a production aircraft. A business or portion of a business involved in the maintenance of aircraft is not eligible. If a facility performs both manufacturing and maintenance functions, only employees working exclusively in the manufacturing portion of the business may qualify for the credit. Aircraft manufacturers must be on airport or have through the fence access to qualify for the credit.

The credit applies to full-time employees (working at least 35 hours per week). The number of aviation zone employees at an aircraft manufacturer's facility during a year is calculated as the average of the number of employees at the facility on the last business day of each month during the tax year. The facility must employ 10 or more employees. The credit is \$1,200 times the increase in the average number of aviation zone employees for the tax year over the previous base number of employees at that facility.

SUMMARY: In June of 2009, the Town of Erie contracted with Boyd Group International to construct the [Erie Municipal Airport Economic Development Study](#) which identifies opportunities for business development for Erie Municipal Airport and surrounding land. This Study was completed and accepted by the Board of Trustees during the September 22, 2009 Board meeting. Included among the recommendations in the Study was the designation of Erie Municipal Airport as an Economic Development Zone. During the same meeting, the Board directed staff to register Erie Municipal Airport as an Economic Development Zone. Staff has since completed the application process with the OEDIT. The effective date of the Aviation Development Zone Registration is October, 29, 2009.

Follow this link to the [Erie Municipal Airport](#) webpage and select [Erie Airport Economic Development Study](#) from “In This Section” to view the complete document.

TOWN OF ERIE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN BACKGROUND

With the realization of Erie’s significant development potential and seeking independent confirmation of the Town’s economic enhancement activities, the [Town of Erie](#) determined during 2006 that it would benefit from a focused effort directed toward economic development. Early in 2007, the [Erie Board of Trustees](#) authorized a contract (\$25,000) with Upstate Colorado Economic Development to construct an economic development plan. Concurrently, the Board appointed an ad hoc committee to work with Upstate to develop a plan that was to be sensitive to the economic realities and political desires as expressed in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. In November 2007, the Board accepted and authorized funding (\$150,000) for the [Town of Erie Economic Development Plan](#) as proposed by the ad hoc committee. The Economic Development Plan includes thirty two specific actions that address the following goals:

- Expand the retail/commercial business base of the Town of Erie.
- Provide the opportunity for Erie residents to pursue meaningful employment within their community.
- Create an environment that facilitates quality development, and starting, expanding and operating a business.
- Build the reputation of the Town of Erie as a quality location for living, business and employment.

At the request of the Town of Erie Board of Trustees, the Economic Development Plan Working Group (**EDPWG**) is charged with executing the various action items of the plan. The **EDPWG** is made up of the following entities: the Erie Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Erie, and the EEDC.

Economic Development Plan Working Group

- Erie Chamber of Commerce: President, Dr. Sally Towner; Executive Director, Elle Cabbage
- Town of Erie: Trustee Tina Harris; Trustee Colin Towner
- EEDC: President, Don Huntress III

MORE INFORMATION

As part of the Economic Development Plan, the Town of Erie has created an economic development liaison and business assistance function to assist companies regarding business resources including: existing retail, employment, infrastructure fees, permitting, special event sponsorship & marketing opportunities, community investment, incentives, planning & zoning, codes, and licensing. For more information, please contact Fred Diehl, Assistant to the Town Administrator at 303-926-2764 or fdiehl@erieco.gov.

To view the Town of Erie Economic Development Plan, please visit www.erieco.gov/economic_development.

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